

CHAPTER XIV – STATUTES OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. The Group of Women Parliamentarians (GoWP) was created following the adoption of a resolution, approving its establishment, during the 2nd Plenary Assembly of the members of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), which took place in Panama City on February 21, 2003.
2. The purpose of the GoWP is to develop topics related to Gender Equality and to encourage their discussion in order to undertake legislative actions related to this agenda. It shall be led by a president elected during its Gathering.
3. **Mandate.** The GoWP has the following objectives:
 - (i) To strengthen the leadership of female politicians through ongoing regional exchange.
 - (ii) To promote the creation of conditions for equal opportunities, prioritizing the fight against poverty and the elimination of employment discrimination.
 - (iii) To strengthen democracies in the countries of the Americas in an effort to achieve respect for human rights, and conditions that promote equitable and sustainable social development.
 - (iv) To promote the creation of mechanisms encouraging women's participation in politics.
 - (v) To strengthen women's active participation at ParlAmericas working meetings, incorporating a gender perspective into each of the topics analyzed by the organization.
4. **Governance.** The GoWP will be governed by an Executive Committee composed of one president, 4 vice-presidents, and 2 ex-officio members, appointed based on the role they serve in ParlAmericas.
 - (i) **GoWP Presidency.** The President will be elected by the delegates of the member parliaments attending the GoWP Gathering. The mandate of her term will be 2 years, with the possibility of re-election. The President will also automatically serve as 2nd Vice-President of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas.
 - (ii) **GoWP Vice-Presidency.** The Vice-Presidents will be elected by the delegates of the member parliaments attending the GoWP Gathering, ensuring, when possible, gender parity in the positions. The term of their mandate will be 2 years, with the possibility of re-election. In the case of an elected Vice-President stepping down from their role or becoming unable to continue their mandate, their position will become open for election at the following GoWP Gathering.
 - (iii) **Ex-officio Members.** The President of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas will be an ex-officio member of the GoWP Executive Committee and will have voting rights. The Director General (or another designated person) will also be an ex-officio member but will not have voting rights.
 - (iv) **Regional composition of the Vice-Presidents.** To maintain regional balance, the 4 Vice-Presidents will come from each of the following four sub-regions:
 - a. North America: Canada, United States of America, United Mexican States.
 - b. Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.
 - c. Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.
 - d. South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

5. **Roles.** The roles and responsibilities of the positions of President and Vice-President are constituted as follows:
- (i) Presidency
 - a. Represent the GoWP in the inter-American system;
 - b. Consult on relevant topics and contribute to ParlAmericas' agenda;
 - c. Review and approve the annual GoWP work plan, prior to its adoption by the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas;
 - d. Provide information on the progress of GoWP activities at every ParlAmericas Board of Directors meeting;
 - e. Chair the meetings of the GoWP Executive Committee;
 - f. Co-chair the GoWP Gathering with the host; and
 - g. Serve as 2nd Vice-President on the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas.
 - (ii) Vice-Presidencies
 - a. Assist with the representation of the GoWP with an emphasis on their respective sub-region;
 - b. Consult on relevant topics and contribute to the development of ParlAmericas' agenda by offering a sub-regional perspective;
 - c. Review and approve the annual GoWP work plan, prior to its adoption by the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas;
 - d. Fulfill the responsibilities of the President in her absence, with prior designation by the President, except in meetings of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas; and
 - e. Attend the GoWP Gatherings.
6. **Electoral process.**¹ The International Secretariat will be responsible for organizing the electoral process for the positions on the GoWP Executive Committee.
- (i) The delegations will be comprised of parliamentarians representing member states, who will be chosen by each parliament.
 - (ii) The delegations representing their parliaments will be able to vote for the President and 4 Vice-Presidents.
 - (iii) The parliamentary candidates for the positions of President and Vice-President must show interest in and commitment to the Group's mandate and have been designated by their respective parliaments.
 - (iv) Every authorized delegation will receive one (1) official electoral ballot. Following the reading of the rules at the Gathering, a representative from the International Secretariat will visibly hand an electoral ballot to the voting delegate from each delegation.
 - (v) An official ballot box will be placed so as to be visible to the Assembly where the representative of each delegation in attendance can place their vote, within the stipulated time.
 - (vi) In the event that there is no competition for a position due to having only one candidate for the vacancy, the Director General or her/his designated representative will announce that the position has been designated by acclamation and will name the winning candidate.
 - (vii) In the event of a tie, the candidates nominated for the position will have two (2) minutes to give a presentation in front of all of the delegations, in order to then hold a second

¹ In accordance with Resolution 34-03 of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas, ratified during the 11th Plenary Assembly, the member legislatures must pay their respective dues in order to present a candidacy. The payment for the current year must be received at the latest one day before the elections in order to present a candidacy.

round of voting. In the event that this also results in a tie, the ParlAmericas Board of Directors will need to vote to decide the winning candidate.

(viii) The Director General or her/his designated representative will announce the election results and the length of the mandates.

(ix) An official announcement of the results will be published on the website.

(x) Succession plan for the Presidency.

a. In the event that the President is absent for an activity in which she must represent GoWP, she will designate one of the Vice-Presidents to fulfill her functions during the activities of the organization, with the exception of her responsibilities related to the role of 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas.

b. In the event that the GoWP President must resign or retire from her role between GoWP Gatherings, the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, through a vote, will designate one of the Vice-Presidents of the GoWP as acting Interim President,² including in the position of 2nd Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Board. The new President will be elected at the next Gathering.

² The designated Vice-President's position will remain vacant until the next election.